

CHOCTAW COUNTY

Honorable Pedro Scurlock, III

Choctaw County Courthouse
117 South Mulberry St.
Butler, AL 36904
(205) 459-3828

Jennifer Blount
Thomas Jackson
Shirley Johnson
Perry Newton
W.H. "Pat" Lindsey
Elaine Alberson
Barbara Shoemaker
Karen Enstrom
Bobby Ridgeway

Tony Cherry
Sadie Lopez
Johnny Heartfield
Vivian Heartfield
Debra Jimmerson
Voncille Jackson
Chuck Gilliland
Mike Murphy
Spencer Walker

Cheryl McGrew
Verna Nickelson
Douglas Marsh
Xavier Ezell
Rev. Charles Dailey
Virginia Montgomery
Rita Johnson
Teresa May



Council Priorities

1. Develop a Family Resource Center.

Develop a family resource center.

2. Locate local resources and service providers.

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3. Increase Parental Involvement and Skills.

Increase parental involvement and skills.

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Educate parents on child development milestones

Action Steps

- 1) Secure Kid Stuff parenting kits for parents of children 0-5 years old.

Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Secure more financial opportunities for families

Action Steps

- 1) Secure funding to educate citizens on small business development.
- 2) Provide a job readiness program to adults/youth.
- 3) Secure a resource center to host multiple training programs.
- 4) Obtain assistance from the Black Belt Action Commission.

Education

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Tutorial program

Action Steps

- 1) Collaborate with the Board of Education to address the academic needs of students by providing an after-school tutoring program.
- 2) Locate a school or a facility to host the tutorial program.
- 3) Provide a program for extracurricular activities (i.e. drama, performing arts, etc.)

Health

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Lack of transportation for children to receive health/medical care in or out of the county

Action Steps

- 1) Public transportation
- 2) Utilize church buses/vans
- 3) Secure funding

Lack of after hours and weekend medical care/mental health care

Action Steps

- 1) Work with USA and UA to provide medical students to work in clinics.
- 2) Use ambulance personnel
- 3) Secure Funding

Parent Involvement Skills

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Mentoring

Action Steps

- 1) Incorporate teen camps via church involvement in the community.
- 2) Incorporate positive male role model program.
- 3) Incorporate positive peer to peer role model program.

Prevention of child abuse and neglect

Action Steps

- 1) Secure funding for parenting programs through Children's Trust Fund.
- 2) Educate parents about the signs and symptoms of substance abuse.
- 3) Provide a parenting program to address various parenting styles.

Safety

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Juvenile substance abuse prevention

Action Steps

- 1) Ask local community centers to sponsor substance abuse education programs targeting juveniles.
- 2) Solicit the community to ask Commissioners/Legislators to enact new laws for stricter enforcement/punishment of offenders.
- 3) Establish a council in each school to target youth 14 years of age and older to educate them on the dangers of substance abuse (alcohol).

Delinquency prevention

Action Steps

- 1) Hold parents/guardians responsible for the actions of their juveniles.
- 2) Educate parents/youth on the consequences of future delinquent acts by mandating them to a court referral program.

Policy Recommendations

- Relieve the Juvenile/District Judge from the duty of chairing the CPC.
- Provide more funding to Children First Trust Fund to provide more services.
- Locate funding for sustainability for existing programs through the CPC.
- Implement more assistance for children's services in the Black Belt Regions.